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RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2019
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RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 0572
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJB/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, S/CT, DS, INL, OES/ENRC
DOJ FOR CTS THORNTON
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TREASURY FOR BROOKS, KEHLERS
NSC FOR E. PHU

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: USG-FUNDED PATROL BOATS MAKE WAVES AGAINST
TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

REF: 07 JAKARTA 3143

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11. (U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified -- Please handle accordingly.

12. (SBU) SUMMARY: USG-provided patrol boats are making a difference in the GOI's campaign against transnational crime. Over the past several weeks, Indonesian Police Marine Units have seized vessels involved in the transportation of illegal goods, such as logs and fish catches. The high-speed boats provide the Marine Police for the first time with over-the-horizon visibility, a capability also useful in anti-terrorist and anti-piracy operations. END SUMMARY.

13. (SBU) USG-PROVIDED PATROL BOATS: The Department of State, through its Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigation and Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) have provided 15 high-speed patrol boats and training to the Indonesian National Police's (INP) Marine Police. The boats arrived in October 2007 and were fully operational by mid-January 2008. They are already making a positive contribution to the INP's campaign against transnational crime, including by countering illegal logging, fish catches, and trafficking in persons.

14. (SBU) The boats are now deployed to areas throughout the archipelago--but mainly in the Malacca Strait and the Sulawesi Sea south of Mindanao--to augment the INP's strategic goals of better controlling their territorial waterways. The DOS-DOJ program plans to provide five additional boats: two in Ternate, North Maluku, two in Sorong, Papua, and one for the Island of Java.

15. (SBU) SUCCESS IN OPERATIONS: The boats are already having an impact. The INP's Marine Police Special Boat Unit

based on the island of Tarakon (located in East Kalimantan astride the Makassar Strait and near the Malaysian border) has made good use of its patrol boats. The two boats used intelligence provided by national and local INP units to stop and board a fishing boat on February 8. Police sources stated that the crew of three Indonesian nationals were illegally transporting 7-9 tons of fish caught without proper permits. While the amount of fish is not significant by itself, the fact that the arrests were made signals the intent of the INP to enforce national laws and that it has the capability to do so. For the first time, the boats are making it possible for the Marine Police to patrol farther from their bases, and to use speed to catch-up with and board vessels suspected of committing crimes.

¶16. (SBU) Illegal logging is also a serious problem in Indonesia. A Marine Police patrol boat was utilizing its new "over-the-horizon" navigation system on December 28, 2007, when the crew spotted a vessel loaded with logs in the Malacca Strait (near the islands of Batam, Indonesia and Singapore). Upon closer inspection of the cargo, the captain of the police boat recognized the cargo as mangrove logs, a protected species of wood in Indonesia. The police boarded the vessel, determined that the crew did not have proper permits for the logs, and arrested all three crew members. The 1,700 logs, each measuring five meters in length, have a value of \$10-\$100 per log or \$17,000-170,000 for the shipment.

¶17. (SBU) In addition, in late January, the Marine Police made a seizure and arrest in the vicinity of Bangka Island, near South Sumatra. The two Marine Police boats stationed on Bangka were using their "over-the-horizon" navigation system to expand their normal patrol area. The crews spotted a ship that looked suspicious so they boarded it. The boat was originally a fishing vessel that had been converted into a

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tanker to haul illegal fuel from Indonesia to Malaysia. The crew was arrested and brought back to Bangka for further interviewing. The new patrol boats made the seizure possible due to their ability to patrol beyond the confines of coastal areas. The training the crew had received from the INL-funded program also was essential.

¶18. (SBU) A BIG PLUS FOR THE GOI: Although the 15 patrol boats provided by the USG are not large vessels (about 30 feet in length), their seaworthiness and advanced navigation systems give the Marine Police greater flexibility to search larger areas of both fresh water and ocean water within the 17,000 islands that make up Indonesia. The Marine Police crews now have the equipment and training to aggressively search for incidents of transnational crime in parts of the country that were previously difficult to routinely monitor.

¶19. (SBU) In the short time since deployment of the boats, not all of which are even yet operational, the boats have clearly made a dramatic difference. We see this as just the beginning of what we expect will be a significant up-tick in interdictions and seizures. These new capabilities will also be useful for the GOI in anti-terrorist and anti-piracy operations.

HUME